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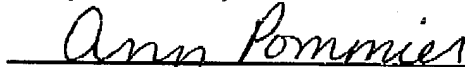
FAX COVER LETTER

June 24, 2004

TO: Mail Stop RCE
COMPANY: U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
PHONE:
FAX: 703-872-9306

FROM: Christopher R. Hilberg
DIRECT DIAL: 612.607.7386
EMAIL: Chilberg@oppenheimer.com
RE: Serial No. 09/976,443
Attorney Docket No. 60021-376002

COMMENTS: I certify that this paper is being transmitted by facsimile to Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, via the facsimile number 703-872-9306, on June 24, 2004.



Ann Pommier

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PTO/SB/30 (10-01)

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REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE) TRANSMITTAL Address to: MS RCE Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450	Application Number	09/976,443
	Filing date	October 12, 2001
	First Named Inventor	Ronald E. Sloan
	Art Unit	3628
	Examiner Name	Jeffrey C. Pwu
	Attorney Docket Number	60021-376002

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 CFR 1.114 of the above-identified application.

Request for Continued Examination (RCE) practice under 37 CFR 1.114 does not apply to any utility or plant application filed prior to June 8, 19915, or to any design application. See Instruction Sheet for RCEs (not to be submitted to the USPTO) on page 2.

1. Submission required under 37 CFR 1.114

- a. ☒ Previously submitted
- i. ☒ Consider the amendment(s)/reply under 37 CFR 1.116 previously filed on April 26, 2004.
(Any unentered amendment(s) referred to above will be entered).
- ii. ☐ Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on _____.
- b. ☒ Enclosed
- i. ☐ Amendment(s)/Reply
- ii. ☐ Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)
- iii. ☐ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)
- iv. ☐ Other Petition for Extension of Time and Returned Postcard.


2. Miscellaneous

- a. ☐ Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 CFR 1.103© for a period of _____ months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 CFR 1.17(i) required)
- b. ☐ Other _____

3. Fees

- The RCE fee under 37 CFR 1.17(e) is required by 37 CFR 1.114 when the RCE is filed.
- a. ☒ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 50-1901.
- i. ☒ RCE fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(e).
- ii. ☒ Extension of time fee (37 CFR 1.136 and 1.17).
- iii. ☐ Other _____
- b. ☐ Check in the amount of \$ _____ enclosed.
- c. ☐ Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed)

WARNING: Information on this form may become public. Credit card information should not be included on this form. Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.**SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED**

Name (Print/Type)	Christopher R. Hilberg	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	48,740
Signature		Date:	June 24, 2004

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: MS RCE, Commissioner For Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, or facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on the date shown below.

Name (Print/Type)	Ann Pommier	Date:	June 24, 2004
Signature			

OPPENHEIMER: 2242056 v01 06/24/2004